

THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA REGISTER

Fullerton district to suspend adult ed program

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FULLERTON - Fullerton Joint Union High School District will suspend its adult education program, beginning in the 2010-11 school year, according to a budget update mailed out Thursday.

Officials said losing \$18 million in revenues in the past two years has forced trustees to focus on programs for high school-age students. The letter indicates once the economy recovers and money returns to the district, a decision will be made as to whether adult education programs should return, and if so, the scope of the programs.

"We will still offer classes to those who are close to graduation," school board member Marilyn Buchi said Friday.

The adult ed program for 2009-10 has been scaled back by limiting courses and services for 150 adult learners who are within 80 units of earning a high school diploma.

In addition, 38 part-time teaching positions and 37 part-time instructional aide positions have been eliminated.

The district offered limited summer school classes for adult learners in 2009, which saved \$50,000.

"Our La Sierra High School building, which is under construction, will still be well-used," Buchi said. The program has been leasing a site in downtown Fullerton for its headquarters.

When the new building near State College Boulevard and Dorothy Lane is complete, the teenage parent pregnancy program and other services will move in.

"By pulling in some of our programs to the new campus site, we will eliminate having to lease two outside properties," Buchi said.

Board members said adult learners have other educational options, including the North Orange County Community College District, which currently has services and programs for about 46,000 adult learners including high school diploma and English language development programs.

But Buchi said, "They're going through budget cutbacks, too."

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